pulsory Use in Packaging Commodities) Act, 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that hun dreds of small scale manufacturers of plastic woven sacks have suffered heavily due to the above Act;

(c) whether Government are aware that because of the above Act, level of production of small scale industrial units, manufacturing plastic woven sacks have gone down to 25 per cent and a number of units have also closed down; and

(d) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) . Associations and units of Plastic woven sacks manufacturers etc. have been representing from time to time that the Reservation Orders issued by the Government in terms of the provisions of the Jute Packing Materials (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987 have affected their capacity utilization and economic viability. Government are of the view that the interests of the traditional jute packaging sector and the synthetic plastic units should be harmonised and both of them should co-exist by having a legitimate share of the packaging of various sectors of the economy, *viz.* foodgrains, sugar, cement and fertilizers. Keeping this objective in view the Reservation Orders, are reviewed from time to time.

Holding back of letters of credit by RBI

114. SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India has held back Letters >of Credit worth crores of rupees which is adversely affecting industries in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is also a fact that most of the Letters of Credit held back by Reserve Bank of India belong to public sector and semi-public 'sector industries;

(c) if so, what are the reasons for holding back Letters of Credits;

(d) whether it is also a fact that because of this action of the Reserve Bank of India, production would be hampered and the cost price would also 'increase; and

(e) if so, what 'remedial steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DAL-BIR SINGH): (a) to (e) In the wake of foreign exchange crunch, Reserve Bank of India have imposed import restrictions which are applicable to public as well as private sector industries. In order to ensure that the production of essential items like petroleum, fertilizers, edible oils, etc., is not adversely affected, such items have been exempted from the operation of these restrictions. The Reserve Bank of India reported that a number of requests received from a large number of importers, including those from Gujarat, have been staggered in view of the difficult foreign exchange position.

Admission in Delhi University Colleges

115. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Delhi University Colleges have cut down on admission to under-gradvrate courses this year;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to review the decision to avoid students agitation on the issue ?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) No. Sir. According to the information furnished by the University of Delhi, as against 66,609 students admitted to Under-graduate. courses last year, the intake capacity this year is 67,823.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Total area of reserve forests in India

116. SHRI R. T. GOPALAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total area of reserve forests in the country;

(b) what is the total area of reserve forests in Tamil Nadu; and

(c) what is the estimated number of wild animals 'in the reserve forests of Tamil Nadu; and